

Fishing News

CONSERVATION AND RECREATION



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NORTHWEST

[Arrowhead Lake](#)

Ice thickness is 9 inches near the boat ramp. Areas in the middle of the lake may be thinner. Use caution and check ice thickness often as you move around.

[Black Hawk Lake](#)

The aeration system in Town Bay is operating. Expect thin ice and open water in Town Bay. Ice thickness is 10 inches off of Ice House Point boat ramp. This is the best ice on the lake - other areas in the middle are much thinner. There are open areas in the main part of the lake, use caution. There is open water fishing at the fish house in Town Bay - area underneath the structure is kept ice free. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Use a waxworm, small minnow, or jigs. Most luck has been around the fish house in Town Bay and near Ice House Point. **Walleye** - Fair: Fish can be picked up around Ice House Point boat ramp, near the Gunshot hill area, and in the inlet bridge bay area. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Anglers are picking up some perch with minnows and waxworms. Most are having luck between Denison Beach and Gunshot Hill area.

[Black Hawk Pits](#)

Ice thickness is 9 inches near the boat ramp.

[Brushy Creek Lake](#)

Anglers have been out on the north end. Foot traffic only. Conditions are changing with the warmer weather this week. Expect open areas and weak ice around protruding trees and other structure that absorb heat from the sun. Other areas of the lake are thinner or have pockets of open water. Use caution if venturing out; check ice thickness often as you move around (ice conditions on this lake are variable). **Black Crappie** - Fair: Pick up crappie by the north boat ramp. Sorting is needed. **Bluegill** - Fair.

[Moorland Pond](#)

Rainbow trout were stocked last week. You need a valid fishing license and pay the trout fee to fish for or possess trout. Daily limit is five trout per licensed angler with a possession limit of 10.

Children age 15 or younger can fish for trout with a properly licensed adult, but together, they can only keep one daily limit. Children can pay the trout fee, allowing them to keep their own daily limit.

Storm Lake (incl Little Storm Lake)

Ice thickness is 10-12 inches. Conditions are variable, with the usual thin areas/open water around the big island and ice seams. Conditions are changing with the warm weather this week. Use caution; check ice thickness often as you make your way out. **Walleye** - Slow: Some fish are being picked up along the dredge cuts. **Yellow Bass** - Fair. **Yellow Perch** - Fair. Most perch being caught are small.

Ice conditions are changing with the warm temperatures this week. Most lakes have ice thickness between 8-10 inches; some lakes have pockets of open water and seams. Use caution if venturing out. For more information, contact the Black Hawk District office at 712-657-2638.

Blue Pit

Ice thickness is 9-11 inches. **Rainbow Trout** - Fair: Use your electronics to find the fish. You need a valid fishing license and pay the trout fee to fish for or possess trout.

Clear Lake

Ice thickness is 14-16 inches on most of the lake; there are several areas of open water and a few ice heaves. Wear safety gear and check ice thickness as you go. **Black Crappie** - Good: Use caution when fishing near the rushes on the north shore. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use a small jig tipped with waxworm in 2 to 3 feet of water near vegetation. **Walleye** -Fair: Try a minnow near rocky habitat. Best bite is early morning and near sunset. **Yellow Bass** - Slow: Use a jig tipped with bait in 2 to 3 feet of water. **Yellow Perch** - Good: Most perch being caught are 4- to 6-inches. Use a bigger bait to target the larger fish.

Crystal Lake

Ice thickness is 16-18 inches with open water on the southeast side. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Use a small jig tipped with minnow near the dredge cut. **Bluegill** - Fair. **Walleye** -Slow.

Rice Lake

Ice thickness is 16-18 inches. **Bluegill** - Slow. **Walleye** - Slow. Best bite is around sunset. **Yellow Perch** - Good. Use a jig tipped with bait near vegetation. You may have to upsize your bait to avoid the smaller fish.

Silver Lake (Worth)

Ice thickness is 16-18 inches. **Bluegill** – Fair: Use a small jig tipped with waxworms near vegetation. **Yellow Perch** - Good: Try a jig tipped with bait in 2 to 3 feet of water.

Aeration systems are running at Crystal Lake, Rice Lake and Silver Lake. Avoid any open water areas; be cautious of waterfowls holes on these lakes. Check ice thickness often as you move. For information on lakes and rivers in north central Iowa, contact Clear Lake Fish and Wildlife office at 641-357-3517.

East Okoboji Lake

Watch for a handful of areas that are open or have just frozen over recently, mainly on the northern most basin. Ice thickness is around 14 inches in most areas. **Black Crappie** - Good: **Bluegill** - Good: **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: **Yellow Perch** - Good: Many perch seen; sorting most likely needed.

Ingham Lake

Caution: There is a large open hole just north of the island. The lake is fully ice covered with

around 14.5 inches. **Walleye** - Fair: Morning and afternoon bite is best.

Silver Lake (Dickinson)

Caution: The lake aerator is in operation. Ice thickness is around 15.5 inches. **Walleye** - Good: Bite hit-or-miss, but very good when bite is on.

Spirit Lake

The lake has ice thick enough for fishing, but also has a large open water section off Big Stony Point. Ice thickness is up to 14 inches in some location; there are thinner areas on the main basin that froze more recently. **Black Crappie** - Good: Anglers are finding quality-size crappie up to 14-inches. **Bluegill** - Good. **Walleye** - Good: **Yellow Perch** - Good: Sorting is needed; anglers are finding many of acceptable size.

West Okoboji Lake

Ice thickness is 14 inches or more in most areas, but there are still many unsafe areas or areas of open water on the main lake. **Black Crappie** - Fair: **Bluegill** - Good.

Warning: Many larger lakes have areas of open water or areas that have iced over very recently. Be cautious of seams that have popped up on many lakes. Most area lakes have 14 or more inches of ice. The extended forecast calls for warm temperatures during the day, but below freezing at night. Check ice thickness often when moving around. For current conditions, call the Spirit Lake District Office at 712-336-1840.

NORTHEAST

Cedar River (above Nashua)

Ice thickness is about 14 inches on impoundments. Use care when approaching ice heaves. Check ice depths often, especially in areas with current. Ice conditions change quickly with warmer weather. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Use a small jig tipped with a minnow or waxworm in deeper water with a little current. **Bluegill** - Slow: Try a small jig tipped with a waxworm or spike near structure or in backwater area. **Northern Pike** - Slow: Use dead chubs fished in areas with dead submersed vegetation or other debris. **Walleye** - Slow: Try minnows on a small jig near bottom just out of current.

Decorah District Streams

Don't forget to buy your [2025 fishing license and trout fee](#). Trout streams are in excellent condition, but low. **Brook Trout** - Fair: Use midge, minnow, or leach patterns for fish looking to get more bang for their effort. **Brown Trout** - Good: Try fishing around an undercut bank or similar structure. Cloudy days and off-color water are a perfect mix for catching this trout. **Rainbow Trout** - Good: Rainbow trout spawn is on, showing brighter colors. Hatchery holdovers remain in the stream teasing anglers. Use a small spinnerbait or hair jig floated past or through deep bank or hole.

Lake Hendricks

Ice thickness is 13-14 inches. Fish activity has slowed. Use care around the aerator. **Bluegill** - Fair: Try jigs with waxworms or spike in deeper water.

Lake Meyer

Ice thickness is about 18 inches. Few anglers out this week. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Try fishing around 4-5 feet off the bottom near dark or early morning. **Bluegill** - Fair: Lots of lookers but some will take a small jig tipped with waxworms or spike in deeper water near brush piles.

Volga Lake

Ice thickness is about 13-14 inches. Few anglers out this week. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Find crappie around pallets or brush piles. Use small jig with some flash. **Bluegill** - Fair: Find gills around brush piles. Use small jigs tipped with a waxworm or spike.

Most area rivers are low and mostly ice covered. Ice thickness is 14-16 inches on most lakes and ponds. Ice conditions can change rapidly with warmer temperatures. A cloudy weekend with highs in the upper 40s and 20s for lows. For more information, contact the Chuck Gipp Decorah Fish Hatchery at 563-382-8324.

Big Woods Lake

Anglers are catching bluegill and crappie; some sorting may be needed. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Find structure; use an ice jig tipped with a minnow or waxworm. Look for suspended fish near the structure using electronics. **Bluegill** - Fair: Find structure; use an ice jig tipped with a waxworm off of the bottom.

Brinker Lake

Anglers are catching yellow bass and crappies. **Black Crappie** - Good: Find structure with electronics; use a small jig tipped with a waxworm or dead-stick with live minnow. **Yellow Bass** - Fair: Find woody structure in 30 feet of water; use a small jig tipped with a waxworm.

Cedar River (Nashua to La Porte City)

Anglers are catching a few walleye on the Cedar River. **Walleye** - Fair: Tip a jig and plastic with a live minnow.

George Wyth Lake

Anglers are catching bluegill and crappie, sorting may be needed. **Black Crappie** – Fair: Find structure; use an ice jig tipped with a minnow or waxworm. Look for suspended fish near the structure using electronics. **Bluegill** – Fair: Find structure; use an ice jig tipped with a waxworm off of the bottom.

Manchester District Streams

Trout streams are in excellent condition.

South Prairie Lake

Anglers are catching bluegill and crappie; some sorting may be needed. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Find structure; use an ice jig tipped with a minnow or waxworm. Look for suspended fish near the structure using electronics. **Bluegill** - Fair: Find structure; use an ice jig tipped with a waxworm off of the bottom.

Interior rivers remain at low levels and should provide some angling opportunities with the recent warming. Few reports of anglers catching some panfish in the Cedar Falls/Waterloo area. Ice conditions remain around the 6-8 inches of good ice on most area lakes. Always use extreme caution on the ice. For more information, contact Manchester Hatchery at 563-927-3276.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER

Mississippi River Pool 9

Water level is 7.9 feet at Lansing. Warming weather may deteriorate ice conditions. Expect some slush and water on top of the ice. Ice thickness is around 15 inches in Shore Slough and Lansing Village Creek. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Nice sized crappies are being caught. Use a small minnow to catch larger fish. **Bluegill** - Fair: The bite has slowed; best bite is early or in the later afternoon. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Anglers are using waxworms on hook and line or tip-ups with minnows. **Northern Pike** - Excellent: Still lots of northern being caught on tip-ups in backwaters. **Yellow Perch** - Good: Perch are biting on waxworms in 2-3 feet of water.

Mississippi River Pool 10

Water level is 613.3 feet in the tailwaters at Lynxville. Warm temperatures will bring rapidly

changing ice conditions with slush and water on top of the ice. Anglers are fishing the dredge cuts above the Marquette bridge. **Avoid ice at Bussey Lake Ramp in Guttenberg ; unsafe ice conditions.** Ice anglers are entering on the island road and reporting around 15 inches of ice. Use caution; warming temperatures may deteriorate ice conditions crossing Johnson Slough at Sny Magill ramp. **Black Crappie** - Good: Nice sized crappie are being caught between the bridges at Marquette. Use minnows to catch larger fish. **Bluegill** - Good: Good sized bluegills are being caught; early and late bite is best. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Anglers are using waxworms on hook and line or tip-ups with minnows. **Northern Pike** - Excellent: Tip-up fishing with a minnow or shiners has been successful. **Yellow Perch** - Good: Look for perch in 2-3 feet water; catch bigger fish with minnows.

Mississippi River Pool 11

Water level is 5.0 feet at Guttenberg. Ice thickness is 15 inches in protected backwaters. Boat ramps in Guttenberg remain iced in. Avoid ice in areas with any current. Avoid the mouth of the creek at Mud Lake. The spring at Zollicoffers Slough has thin ice. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Bite has slowed; a few nice sized crappie reports using minnows. **Bluegill** - Fair: Bite has slowed. Some sorting is needed; decent bluegills are being caught late afternoon. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Anglers are using waxworms on hook and line or tip-ups with minnows. **Northern Pike** - Excellent: Still lots of northern caught on tip-ups in backwaters. **Yellow Perch** - Good: Reports of perch catches at Mud and Sunfish lakes.

Upper Mississippi River Pools 9-11 are reporting a slower bite. Ice thickness is around 15 inches in backwaters. Warming temperatures may turn the top layer of ice to slush and water and may cause unsafe ice around the edges. Ice cleats are a necessity. Avoid the ice in areas with current. Main channel ramps remain iced up.

Mississippi River Pool 12

Water level is stable at 5.1 feet at Dubuque Lock and Dam and 7.7 feet at the RR bridge. Water is clear. Water temperature is around 33 degrees in the main channel. Hawthorne boat ramp is iced in. **Black Crappie** - Good: Anglers are often using tip-downs with a minnow for bait. **Bluegill** - Excellent: Anglers are targeting the various harbor sites within the city of Dubuque. If you have airboats or hovercrafts, several newly dredged backwater area like Stone Lake and Tippy Lake have been good. **Northern Pike** - Excellent: Pike fishing has been very good in the backwaters. Anglers are using large shiners with tip-ups. **Walleye** - No Report: Very difficult to get to the tailwater as boat ramps are iced in.

Mississippi River Pool 13

Water level is stable at 5.2 feet at Bellevue. Water temperature is 33 degrees in the main channel. Water is clear. Bellevue City Ramp can be open at times, but subject to freezing and large ice chunks. The DNR ramp is frozen in. The main channel is open below the dam; major ice flows are occurring at times. **Bluegill** - Excellent: Ice conditions have become more favorable this week and a lot of fishing is going on, especially in lakes around Sabula. Ice can be sketchy around the south campground; check ice thickness often before going out. The ice itself is very slick; use cleats to move around. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Lots of big bass have been reported by ice anglers in the Sabula area. **Walleye** - No report: Very little angling occurring due to cold and ice at boat ramps. **Yellow Perch** - Good: Many little yellow perch with an occasional nicer fish being seen around the Sabula Lakes area.

Mississippi River Pool 14

The water level is stable at 4.5 feet at Fulton, 9.2 feet at Camanche and 4.2 feet at LeClaire. Water is clear. Water temperature is around 33 degrees. **Bluegill** - Good: Ice fishing is occurring at Rock Creek and Cattail Lake. Sorting is needed; some nice fish are being caught. **Walleye** - No report: All boat ramps in Clinton are iced in.

Mississippi River Pool 15

The water level is stable at near 5.8 feet at Rock Island. Water is clear. Water temperature is around 33 degrees.

Ice fishing conditions are generally good in traditional areas; always use caution. Even in some traditional areas, thin ice or even open water has been reported. Ice has been slick; wear cleats to help you move around. If you have angling questions, call Bellevue Fisheries Management at 563-880-8781.

Mississippi River Pool 16

Tailwater stage is 4.73 feet at Lock and Dam 15 in the Quad Cities and has been falling. The main channel below Lock and Dam 15 is open. The Marquette St boat ramp has one lane open for launching boats. There were a few boat trailers in the parking lot. Boat ramp and main channel conditions may change. We have not received any ice condition reports for this pool this week. Rain and warm temperatures are in the forecast that could create unsafe ice conditions. **Sauger** - No Report: We have not received any tailwater fishing reports this week. Ramp conditions may change with warm temperatures and rain in the forecast. Look for saugers below the Lock and Dam. Try vertical jigging with minnows or trolling three-way rigs with minnows. **Walleye** - No Report: Look for walleye below the Lock and Dam. Try vertical jigging with minnows or trolling three-way rigs with minnows.

Mississippi River Pool 17

Tailwater stage is fairly steady at 3.90 feet at Lock and Dam 16 in Muscatine. The boat ramps at Muscatine are still frozen in. We have not received any ice conditions reports for Big Timber this week. Rain and warm temperatures in the forecast could create unsafe ice conditions.

Mississippi River Pool 18

Tailwater stage is 4.31 feet at Lock and Dam 17 at New Boston and has been falling. The Toolsboro ramp is being reported as frozen in. We have not received any ice condition reports for this pool this week. Rain and warm temperatures in the forecast could create unsafe ice conditions.

Mississippi River Pool 19

Tailwater stage is fairly steady 1.98 feet at Lock and Dam 18 above Burlington. We have not received any fishing reports. We have not received any ice condition reports for this pool this week. Rain and warm temperatures in the forecast could create unsafe ice conditions.

Tailwater stages have been steady to slightly falling this past week. The main channel is opening up again with recent warm temperatures; most boat ramps are still frozen in. No reports on ice conditions. Rain and warm temperatures in the forecast could create unsafe ice conditions. If you have questions on fishing Pools 16-19, contact the Fairport Fish Hatchery at 563-263-5062.

SOUTHEAST

Big Hollow Lake

Ice is still in pretty good shape; the warm weather has led to standing water on the ice and some slush. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Bite is hit-and-miss. Most anglers are working the edge of the trees along the south side across from the campground and down towards the dam.

Lake Belva Deer

Puddles of standing water showing up on the ice with the warm weather; the first inch or so of ice is getting pretty soft. **Black Crappie** - Good: Bite mostly at night. Some also caught very early morning and at last light. Daytime pretty slow. **Bluegill** - Fair: Most bluegills caught early morning, then slow.

Lake Darling

Due to the warm weather there is standing water on the ice; the first inch or so of ice is in pretty bad shape. The hole kept open by the geese is getting bigger everyday; currently 4-5 acres. **Bluegill** - Fair: Anglers are catching decent numbers of bluegills during the day along with some crappies. The crappie bite picks up a little bit near dark.

Lake Geode

Geese are still keeping the middle of the lake wide open; avoid that area. Most anglers are concentrating their efforts in the two bays on each side the main boat ramp. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Anglers are picking up crappies over the habitat in 8 to 10 feet of water. **Bluegill** - Fair: Bite hit-and-miss. Work the fish habitat in 8 to 10 feet of water.

Lost Grove Lake

Lost of anglers were out on the ice last weekend. Most are catching bluegills. **Bluegill** - Good. Most fishing pressure remains at the western end down from causeway. Most anglers are fishing in the thicker patches of flooded timber up at that end of the lake.

For more information on the above lakes and rivers call the Lake Darling Fisheries Office at 319-694-2430.

Cedar River (La Porte City to Cedar Rapids)

Black Crappie – Slow. **Bluegill** – Fair. **White Crappie** – Slow.

Iowa Lake (Iowa Co.)

Ice thickness is 6-8 inches. **Black Crappie** – Slow. **Bluegill** – Slow.

Lake Macbride

Black Crappie - Slow. **Bluegill**- Slow. **Walleye** -Slow. **White Crappie** - Slow. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** - Slow.

Pleasant Creek Lake

Ice thickness is 10-12 inches. Fishing success and anglers numbers have reduced significantly since last week. **Black Crappie** - Slow. **Bluegill**- Slow. **Walleye** - Slow. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** - Slow.

Rodgers Park Lake

Ice thickness is 12 inches. **Black Crappie** - Fair. **Bluegill** - Fair.

Union Grove Lake

Ice thickness is 8 inches. Large open area near west boat ramp from waterfowl. **Black Crappie** - Slow. **Bluegill** - Slow.

Wapsi River (Troy Mills to Oxford Junction)

Final stage of dredging at the Pinicon Ridge Park will start the first week of February. Some areas will be closed to ice fishing. Closures are expected to last for about one month. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Few fish are being caught in backwater area at Pinicon Ridge Park. **Bluegill** - Slow: Few fish are being caught in backwater area at Pinicon Ridge Park.

For more information, contact the Lake Macbride Fisheries Station at 319-624-3615.

Hawthorn Lake

Ice conditions are variable with open water in some areas and 2-5 inches in others. Fishing activity has been slow with variable ice conditions. Use caution if venturing out.

Lake Keomah

Lake Keomah is drained for a lake restoration project. Please keep out of the lake bed.

[Lake Miami](#)

Ice conditions are variable with a pressure ridge developing on the east side creating some open water. Entering the lake from the west boat ramp is best. Catch crappies with jigs in brush piles.

[Lake Sugema](#)

The lake has quite a bit of open water; Canada geese are keeping areas open. No fishing activity has been occurring. **Unsafe ice conditions.**

[Lake Wapello](#)

Ice conditions vary; use caution.

[Rathbun Reservoir](#)

The current lake level is 903.02 msl; recreation pool is 904 msl. Anglers are fishing in the coves and bay at South Fork, Buck Creek and Honey Creek. Ice thickness varies; use caution and be aware of pressure ridges in some areas. Catch crappies with jigs around brush piles. Lake Rathbun has zebra mussels; [properly drain, clean and dry equipment](#) before transporting to another waterbody. Target crappie using jigs around brush piles.

[Red Haw Lake](#)

Ice thickness varies; use caution. Target brush piles and the submerged structure near the campground hill.

Ice conditions vary at each lake; use caution and check ice thickness often. Contact the Rathbun Fish Hatchery at 641-647-2406 with questions about fishing south central Iowa.

SOUTHWEST

[Ada Hayden Heritage Park Lake](#)

Ice thickness is 12 inches. Warm weather may cause some weaker ice right at the shoreline. **Rainbow Trout** - Good: Trout were stocked through the ice on January 30. Use jigging spoons or panfish jigs tipped with waxworms. Trout at Ada Hayden typically school within 20 to 30 yards from shore during ice cover. You need a valid fishing license and pay the trout fee to fish for or possess trout.

[Big Creek Lake](#)

Ice thickness is 11 inches. Areas of open water have expanded some with the warm weather. This band of open water arcs from a couple hundred yards out from the marina to West Boat Ramp bay and back across lake to Ensign shelter. **Black Crappie** - Slow. No reports of a good crappie bite. A fair population of large crappies is present if you can find schools. Try glow jigs and glow spoons tipped with live minnows, minnow heads or waxworms in the evening. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use waxworms and spikes near sunken trees.

[Don Williams Lake](#)

Ice thickness is around 10 inches. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Try glow jigs with waxworms or glow spoons with live minnows or minnow heads late afternoon and evening.

[Hickory Grove Lake](#)

Ice thickness is 10 inches. **Bluegill** - Good: Catch on waxworms throughout much of the lake. The best pattern has been a late afternoon into evening bite over the dead willow and cottonwood trees that grew while the lake was drained. The portion of the lake with most of this habitat is between the Snow Bunting Lodge and the South Boat Ramp at depths greater than 12 feet.

[Lake Petocka](#)

Rainbow Trout - Fair: Trout were stocked through the ice on January 16. Try jigging spoons or

panfish jigs tipped with a waxworm. You need a valid fishing license and pay the trout fee to fish for or possess trout.

[Terra Lake](#)

Rainbow Trout - Fair: Trout were stocked through the ice on January 16. Try jigging spoons or panfish jigs tipped with a waxworm. You need a valid fishing license and pay the trout fee to fish for or possess trout.

[Triumph Park West](#)

Bluegill - Good: Use waxworms. Start by fishing where bottom depths are 6 to 12 feet. **Rainbow Trout** - Good: Trout were stocked through the ice on January 16 in both Triumph East and West Ponds. Try jigging spoons or panfish jigs tipped with a waxworm. You need a valid fishing license and pay the trout fee to fish for or possess trout.

Ice thickness is 10-12 inches on Central Iowa lakes and ponds. Warm weather and rain may change conditions near the shoreline and on small ponds quickly. For information on Central Iowa lakes and rivers contact Ben Dodd at 641-891-3795 or Andy Otting at 515-204-5885.

[Lake Anita](#)

Ice thickness is 10 inches. **Black Crappie** - Good: Sorting is needed for larger fish. Look for deep tree piles. **Bluegill** - Fair: Anglers fishing in 10 feet of water around tree piles are doing well.

[Littlefield Lake](#)

Ice thickness is 10 inches.

[Meadow Lake](#)

Ice thickness is 10 inches. Find a deep cedar tree pile for best success. **Black Crappie** - Slow. Try fishing an hour before dark to find 10-inch black crappie. **Bluegill** -Fair: Catch 8-inch bluegill around cedar tree piles .

[Prairie Rose Lake](#)

Ice thickness is 10 inches. **Black Crappie** - No report: There is a fair population of 10- to 12-inch black crappie. **Bluegill** - Fair: Anglers are starting to catch bluegill around the cedar tree piles.

[Viking Lake](#)

Ice thickness varies from 4-8 inches. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Anglers are catching 9-inch black crappie in the campground arm of the lake. **Bluegill** - Good: Fishing is good for 7.5-inch bluegill.

Ice conditions have deteriorated in the southern part of the district. Drill holes often when venturing out; never walk on black ice. For information on lakes in the Southwest District, call the Cold Springs office at 712-769-2587.

[Green Valley Lake](#)

Ice thickness is 7 inches of ice off the beach area boat ramp. Geese are keeping an area open near the campground which is expanding southward. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Catch crappie up to 8-inches with jigs tipped with a waxworm near deep cedar tree brush piles. **Bluegill** - Slow: Catch bluegill up to 8-inches with jigs tipped with a waxworm near deep cedar tree brush piles.

[Little River Watershed Lake](#)

Ice thickness is 5-6 inches off the main boat ramp. Area of open water off the Paul Vaughn boat ramp. Geese are keeping an area of open water on the south end of the lake.

Summit Lake

Ice thickness is 7 inches of ice off the main boat ramp. Avoid thin ice near the HWY 25 bridge. Geese are keeping an area open about mid-lake.

Three Mile Lake

Driving is prohibited on any service roads used to access the lakebed and the lakebed itself. Lake level is 11 feet below normal pool. Boat ramp lanes are out of the water at the main boat ramp.

Twelve Mile Creek Lake

Variable ice conditions; ice thickness is 8 inches off of the east boat ramp. Areas of open water on the south end of the lake. Area of open water off the Townline Boat Ramp. **Yellow Perch** - Slow: Use jigs tipped with a waxworm in 15-20 feet of water along the flooded timber to catch all sizes of yellow perch.

Most Mount Ayr district lakes have variable ice conditions; ice thickness is 0 to 8 inches. Some larger lakes have areas of open water. Ice conditions have deteriorated on the top couple of inches of ice. Use extreme caution and drill test holes often. For more information, call Mount Ayr Fisheries office at 641-464-3108.



Iowa DNR and Wildlife Forever encourages all Iowans ages 5-18 to enter the Iowa Fish Art Contest! Winning submissions will be featured in the DNR building at the 2025 Iowa State Fair.

The art must include one or more of the following fish species: Rainbow Trout, Brown Trout, Brook Trout, Walleye, Channel Catfish, Flathead Catfish, Bluegill, Crappie, Iowa Darter and/or Muskellunge.

Deadline for submissions is Feb. 28, 2025. Only digital submissions are accepted - one entry per person: [individual form](#) or [group form](#).